I

RURAL DISTRICT OF

K I D D E R M I N S T E R

A N N U A L R E P O R T

on the work of the

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

for the year

1969.

R. W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Chir. D.P.H.
(Medical Officer of Health)

KIDDERMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

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KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tel. No.
KIDDERMINSTER 2237.

Land Oak House,
KIDDERMINSTER.

Chairman:-

COUNCILLOR A. E. HOBSON

Vice-Chairman:-

COUNCILLOR S. SPENCER

COUNCILLOR J. E. BAZLEY
" H. S. BERESFORD
" C. BLOUNT
" H. DOOLITTLE
" J. T. HARDY
" H. E. HICKTON
" H. HINGLEY, J.P.
" DR. H. H. B. LAMB
" J. PAGE
" J. POWICK
" MRS. M. H. SEYMOUR
" M. W. STAITE, M.B.E.
" C. E. TALBOT
" J. W. WARDLE, M.B.E., J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Medical Officer of Health:

R. W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer:

R. S. PORTER, Cert.S.I.J.B., C.R.San.I.
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)

Assistant: C. G. KNOTT

Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk:

MRS. I. M. MANN

Rats and Mice Destruction Officer: E. LEE

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H.

To the Chairman and Members of the
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my REPORT for the year 1969.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	36,769
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population mid 1969	12,660
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1969	4,520
Rateable Value...	£467,306
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,996

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

In the main the inhabitants of the District are engaged in agriculture and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in industry in neighbouring towns and a number of males are employed at an Iron Works in the District.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS:

		Males.	Females.	1969. Totals	1968. Totals.
(a)	Live Births: Legitimate	85	69	154	153
	Illegitimate	5	10	15	13
	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			13.3	13.1
	Birth Rate for England and Wales			16.3	13.1
	Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live Births			9.0	7.8
	Illigitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births for England and Wales			8.0	-
(b)	Still Births: Legitimate	-	1	1	6
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	-
	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total Births			6.0	34.8
	Still Birth Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total Births			13.0	35.0
	Total Live and Still Births	90	80	170	172

DEATHS:

		Male.	Female.	1969. Totals.	1968. Totals.
(a)	Number registered for District	77	59	136	122
	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			10.7	9.6
	Death Rate for England and Wales			11.9	11.9
(b)	Maternal Mortality			0	0
	Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births			0	0
	Maternal Mortality rate for England and Wales			0.19	0.24
(c)	Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age) Legitimate	1	-	1	-
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	-
	Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 total Live Births			6	-
	Infant Mortality (under 1 year) rate per 1,000 Live Births for England and Wales			18.0	18.0
	Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births			6.0	0
	Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births for England and Wales			17.0	-
	Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births			0	0
	Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births for England and Wales			25	-
(d)	Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks				
	Legitimate	1	-	1	-
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	-
	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks) per 1,000 total Live Births			6	0
	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate for England and Wales			12.0	12.4

	Male.	Female.	1969.	1968.
(e) Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age:				
Legitimate	1	-	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 week) per 1,000 total Live Births			6	-
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate for England and Wales			10	-
(f) Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births).			12.0	34.8
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births) for England and Wales			23	35

Causes of Infants Deaths:

Cerebral Haemorrhage.

CAUSES OF DEATH:

		Male.	Female.
B18	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	-	2
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	-
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	3
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	5	-
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	3
B19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	3	4
B46(1)	Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	1
B46(4)	Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	2	-
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	1
B27	Hypertensive Disease	2	-
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	22	12
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	3	3
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	9	11
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	4
B32	Pneumonia	4	3
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	2
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	3
B34	Peptic Ulcer	1	-
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-
B46(8)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1-	-
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	-
BE48	All Other Accidents	2	4
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	-
	Total all causes.	77	59

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Staff.

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, and of Mrs. I. M. Mann as Public Health Clerk.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the chemical examination of water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

All clinical bacteriology is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory situated at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.

For infectious diseases an ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board and operates from Hayley Green.

For other cases an ambulance service is provided by the County Council, the operational headquarters of which are based at the County Medical Officer of Health's Offices at Love's Grove, Worcester - telephone numbers Worcester 21611/5.

The ambulance station at Kidderminster operates a fully manned twenty-four hours service.

Nursing at Home.

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also practise as Midwives and act as Health Visitors. Two other District Nurses and one Health Visitor also deal with portions of the area.

Infant Welfare Centres.

There are six Infant Welfare Centres in the area - at Far Forest, Wolverley, Cookley, Chaddesley Corbett, Blakedown and Gorst Hill, where immunisation and vaccination are carried out.

The Welfare Centre at Wribbenhall is also used by residents of the area.

The Doctor is in attendance at the clinics on the following days:-

Far Forest	-	2nd Tuesday even months
Gorst Hill	-	2nd Wednesday odd months
Wolverley	-	1st and 3rd Tuesday each month
Cookley	-	2nd and 4th Friday each month
Blakedown	-	4th Thursday each month
Wribbenhall	-	4th Tuesday each month
Chaddesley Corbett	-	1st Thursday each month

Hospitals.

The Kidderminster General Hospital is available for all residents in our area, but some patients are admitted direct or transferred to all Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, which is most difficult of access to their relatives.

For Infectious Diseases the isolation hospital at Hayley Green is available.

For maternity cases beds are available at The Croft Maternity Hospital, Kidderminster and the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home, Stourport-on-Severn, and for those requiring admission to hospital, All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove.

Tuberculosis.

This work is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, who arrange sanatorium treatment where necessary. Dispensaries are held every Tuesday at 6-30 p.m., Wednesday at 10-0 a.m., and Thursday at 2-0 p.m., at the Kidderminster General Hospital, where Dr. Cronin attends.

The County Council are responsible for prevention and after-care and this work is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee.

Venereal Disease.

Facilities are available at:-

Worcester Royal Infirmary - Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.
Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton - Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.
Dudley Guest Hospital - Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The major water supply in this District is obtained from the North West Worcestershire Water Board, with whom the closest contact is maintained. Results of the analyses of samples taken from both mains and local supplies are shared.

The Public Health Inspector submitted 25 samples of water from the main sources of supply for the area for bacteriological examination. All but 4 of the samples were satisfactory.

Water Supplies to Premises in the Rural District.

Parish	From Public Mains - Number of Premises.	From Private Supplies, e.g. Wells, Springs, etc. - Number of Premises.	Total.
Wolverley	1536	4	1540
Upper Arley	318	15	333
Ribbesford	28	4	32
Churchill & Blakedown	561	-	561
Rock	686	16	702
Broome	108	-	108
Stone	211	4	215
Rushock	56	-	56
Kidderminster Foreign	391	15	406
Chaddesley Corbett	559	8	567
Totals	4454	66	4520

Percentage of houses connected to the Public Mains - 98.5%

Drainage and Sewerage.

With further development occurring in this area the urgency of an adequate sewerage scheme is even more apparent and the Council are strongly recommended to proceed with this.

Blakedown.

I must emphasize the urgent necessity for new plant at these disposal works.

HOUSING.

(a) Action under Housing Act during the year.

Number of Houses represented for Demolition Orders	...	NIL
Number of Demolition Orders made	...	NIL
Number of Houses represented for Closing Orders	...	NIL
Number of Closing Orders made (whole house)	...	NIL
Number of Closing Orders made (part of a building)	...	NIL
Number of Closing Orders changed to Demolition Orders		NIL
Undertakings not to use house accepted	...	NIL
Undertakings to repair house accepted	...	NIL
Number of houses actually demolished during the year	...	2
Number of persons displaced	...	5

(b) Public Health Act.

Houses in which defects were remedied:

After informal action by Local Authority	...	137
After formal action by Local Authority	...	NIL

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED:

Preliminary Notices Served	...	88
Statutory Notices served	...	NIL

HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

No serious overcrowding has come to light during the year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Our efforts to persuade all parents to bring their children for immunisation continued as before.

79 children under five years of age and 15 children from five to fifteen years of age were given primary courses of treatment and 87 were given booster doses.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

During the year 77 persons were vaccinated and 3 were re-vaccinated.

Notifications.

The notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) which occurred during the year 1969 are set out in the following table:-

	AGE IN YEARS.										No.of Cases admitted to Hospital.	No.of Deaths.
Disease.	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Total No.of Cases		
Measles	1	1	-	-	2	4	-	1	1	10	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	3	1	5	-	3	5	17	1	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	1	5	4	3	1	14	2	-
Totals	1	1	-	3	5	16	4	7	7	44	3	-

Tuberculosis

One new case of Tuberculosis was notified during the year 1969 and there were no deaths from the disease.

It was not necessary to take any action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1959.

There are twelve factories in the district. Conditions of employment are very satisfactory and the owners co-operate to the full with your Health Department.

Part 1 of the Act.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local authorities.	12	16

No defects were found during the year.

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork.

Sections 110 and 111.

Nature of Work.	Outworkers in August List.	Section 110 No. of cases of Default in sending lists.	No. of Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel	1	Nil	Nil

There is only one person employed on Outwork, viz., glove knitting in her own home and conditions are ideal.

MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

Two slaughterhouses have been in use during the year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	52	Nil	Nil	1410	454
Number inspected	48	Nil	Nil	1302	439
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS. Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4
TUBERCULOSIS	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Meat and Edible Offals Condemned.

Pneumonia	...	10 lbs.
Necrosis	...	12 lbs.
		22 lbs.

MILK.

The premises used for this trade which come under the jurisdiction of the Council have given no cause for complaint.

OTHER FOODS.

The following details show the position with regard to food premises.

Type.	No.	Registered Section 14 F. & D. Acts.	Inspections.
General Provisions	47	-	117
Cafes	9	-	31
Hotels and other Licensed Premises	35	-	109
Works Canteens	1	-	3
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1	7
Ice Cream Retailers	42	42	38

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Number of unexpired Licences in force ... 7

Bakehouses.

Number on Register December 1969 ... 2

Inspections ... 6

Contraventions Remedied.

Limewashing ... 2

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The improvement in the collection of refuse has been continued and 1449 loads were tipped on the controlled tip at Caunsall.

Cesspool Emptying.

998 loads have been dealt with from houses not on the Council's sewers. These loads have been sprayed on to farm land in the Area. There is an ever increasing need for farmers to come forward to allow their land to be used for the purpose which can be very beneficial.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.

The Kidderminster Rural District is such that many thousands of holiday makers spend considerable periods in caravans throughout the District. Up to the moment 13 sites comprising 898 caravans are licensed and facilities have been provided in accordance with the Model Standards.

It is pleasing to be able to record that owners and occupiers of sites have faced up to their responsibilities and shown every co-operation.

A close touch has been maintained with the Worcester City and County Fire Brigade and their suggestions with regard to fire fighting arrangements have been adopted.

The caravan dwellers themselves, are, almost without exception, a good type who take pride in the maintenance of their caravans and sites. In several instances Site Committees have been set up and these Committees have maintained the closest contact with the Council and its Officials.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Particulars of visits and inspections are as follows:-

Housing Inspection (Public Health & Housing Acts)	762
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	672
Premises where Animals are kept	46
Water Courses	108
Water Supply	176
Miscellaneous	2101

SANITARY WORK.

Interior of Houses.

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenants	4
Verminous houses dealt with	Nil

Drainage.

Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	228
Defective drains repaired	38

Water Closets.

Foul and obstructed water closets cleansed	24
Water closets repaired	28

Dustbins.

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins	211

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Infestation Orders, 1943.

Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year:-

Number of infestations dealt with	608
Number of complaints received	291

HOUSING.

A further 15 houses were erected during the year making a total of 975 since the war. A further 26 are in course of erection.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, Lady and Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given by the whole of the Council during the year?

The work shown in the foregoing report could only have been successfully carried out with the loyal support of all the Officers of the Health Department, and I herewith pay tribute to their services.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. MARKHAM.

Medical Officer of Health.